

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAMA KO 03623 262226Z

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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INFO USUN NEW YORK 247

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAMA KO 3623

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS49 .), PGOV, FR

SUBJ: US-MALI RELATIONS

1. DCM CALLED ON HIS COUNTERPART AT FRENCH EMBASSY, BORO UX, SEPTEMBER 24 IN WHAT IS BECOMING REGULAR, BUT INFORMAL, CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO EMBASSIES. IN REPLY TO QUESTION AS TO STATE OF US-MALIAN RELATIONS, DCM POINTED OUT THAT MALIAN VOTE ON PUERTO RICO HAD AFFECTED OUR RELATIONS IN NEGATIVE WAY. BORO UX ASKED IF THIS MEANT DEPARTURE FROM PAST PRACTICE OF "LOOKING OTHER WAY" AT MALIAN THIRD WORLD DRAMATICS. DCM REPLIED THAT PUERTO RICO WAS AN ISSUE THAT INVOLVED AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY AND THAT MALIANS STILL SEEMED OBLIVIOUS TO FACTS OF LIFE.

2. BORO UX SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD THAT DAY SIGNED AGREEMENTS (REPORTED SEPT EL) WITH GOM PROVIDING FOR \$3,528,000 WORTH OF ADDITIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT AID. MALIAN LEADERSHIP WAS, IN BORO UX'S WORDS, TOTALLY PREOCCUPIED WITH CRITICAL ECONOMIC SITUATION. FINDING NEW SOURCES OF AID WAS THE REGIMES FIRST PRIORITY. BORO UX BRUSHED OFF POSSIBLE AID FROM
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PAGE 02 BAMA KO 03623 262226Z

ARABS AS A MIRAGE. FRANCE HAD EXTENDED CONSIDERABLE AID TO MALI, SAIDHXILNOUX. WAS THE US RECONSIDERING ITS OWN AID PROGRAM? DCM REPLIED THAT US AID WAS STILL BASED ON HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES, BUT THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY FOREIGN MINISTER CISSOKO SHOULD PICK THIS TIME TO ATTACK SO BITTERLY THE VERY COUNTRIES WHICH ARE PROVIDING AID TO MALI. BOUROUX EVINced GENUINE SURPRISE WHEN DCM QUOTED EXAMPLES OF CISSOKO'S HARsher SHATEMENTS RE FOREIGN AID AT THE UN. BOUROUX HAD SEEN ONLY OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPER L'ESSOR'S BLAND ACCOUNT OF SPEECHES. DCM HAS SINCE PROVIDED FULL TEXT OF CISSOKO'S SPECIAL SESSION SPEECH TO BOUROUX.

COMMENT: BOUROUX HAPPENED TO BECOME INCREASINGLY CONCERNED

AS CONVERSATION CONTINUED AT PROSPECp THAT MALIAN EXCESSES WOULD DRIVE OUT AID DONORS SUCH AS US. WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT FRENCH WILL ALSO WEIGH IN WITH MALIAN TO TONE TOWN THEIR MORE OBNOXIOUS STATEMENTS AT UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA. WTCGUIRE

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NNN

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